sion sets below 14 inches and above 22 inches; and

(b) if so, the action taken to remove the difficulties being faced in this regard by persons bringing such television sets from abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRi RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The Government have fixed rates of countervailing duty and additional customs duty on all imported TV sets.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

Rules and Regulations for Mutual funds

2715. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:
KUMARI UMA BHARATI:
SHRI RAM NAIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to frame common rules and regulations for all mutual funds andon shore mutual funds in the private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether the government have appointed a study group on mutual funds;

(d) if so, the composition of the above group and the date of its appointment;

(e) the time by which the study group has been asked to submit its report;

(f) whether there is any proposal to scrap special tax concessions to UTI and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (e). Government had constituted in June 1991 a study/Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.A. Dave, Chairman UTi, to evolve a suitable framework for regulation of all mutual funds including those to be set up in the private and joint sectors. The regulatory framework envisaged will cover, interalia, aspects like establishment, management, investment objectives, pricing, disclosures, distribution policy and statements of accounts of mutual funds. The members of the Group include representatives of Securities and Exchange Board of India, Reserve Bank of India, Government of India, mutual funds and subject matter special lists. The Report of the Study Group on Guidelines for Mutual Funds has already been received.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Conveyance Allowance to Physically Handicapped employees

2716. SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the conveyance allowance admissible to physically handicapped employees in view of rise in cost of living index; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Insurance Cover for small Fishermen

2717. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the premium required to be paid by the fishermen community for insurance cover is higher than others;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the extra facilities provided to the fishermen under the insurance cover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The fishermen groups are being charged the same rate of premium as other occupations approved under the Social Security Scheme of the Life Insurance Corporation of India. As far as individual assurance is concerned, no extra premium for fishermen is charged.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The facilities are uniform for all the occupations, including the fishermen, covered under the LIC's Social Security Schemes.

Setting up of Banks in Private Sector

2718. SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Narasimham Committee on financial sector reforms has looked into the modalities for permitting the private sector to set up new banks in the country; and

(b) if so, the recommendations of the Committee in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). The High Level Committee set up by the Government under the Chairmanship of Shri M. Narasimham was asked to examine all aspects relating to the structure, organisation, functions and procedures of the financial system. It has submitted its report to the Government on 20.11.1991. The report of the Committee will be processed on the basis of detailed examination of all its recommendations in consultation with Reserve Bank of India and other concerned agencies.

Imports/Exports After Devaluation

2719. DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S. SOUNDARAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the devaluation of rupee has acted as an incentive for more exports and disincentive for imports; and

(b) if so, the figures of imports and exports after devaluation of rupee, in terms of dollar, in comparison to the corresponding period of last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The exchange rate adjustments were expected to stop further deterioration in the country's balance of payments in the short run and improve it in the medium term by improving trade balance. There is a time lag for the exchange rate adjustments have a real impact on exports and imports.

(b) The provisional figures of the foreign trade for the current financial year are available upto September, 1991. The details of exports, imports and balance of trade during the month of July 91, August 91 and September 91 as compared to the corresponding months of previous year, in dollar terms are given below: